HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO CONSIDER INCLUDING A BASE AMOUNT IN THE WEIGHTED STUDENT FORMULA TO COVER PHYSICAL PLANT OPERATIONS.

WHEREAS, Act 51, Session Laws of Hawaii 2004, established a weighted student formula to help ensure that moneys go to schools with the greatest need and to place more moneys at the discretion of individual schools; and

WHEREAS, a significant advantage of the weighted student formula is that principals have the authority to make funding decisions based on the needs of their own school; and

WHEREAS, the weighted student formula works by allocating a specific dollar amount to educate each enrolled student, with additional money allocated to educate students with identified characteristics that may impact their learning and achievement; and

WHEREAS, the student characteristics accounted for in the 2014-2015 school year include a grade level adjustment, English language learner status, economic disadvantage, transiency, and gifted and talented status; and

WHEREAS, school characteristics that are given weight in the formula include a school's location on a neighbor island; and

WHEREAS, the weighted student formula also allocates base funding per school based on school type; and

WHEREAS, school types differentiated for the purposes of allocating base funding include elementary schools; multi-track

elementary schools; middle schools; multi-track middle schools; high schools; and K-12, K-8, and 6-12 combination schools; and

WHEREAS, the amount of base funding allocated per school does not factor in the size of the school or school grounds; and

WHEREAS, the larger the school campus, the greater the need for physical plant resources, including custodians and security; and

WHEREAS, schools with large physical plant resource needs and relatively small enrollments are particularly disadvantaged under the current formula; and

WHEREAS, schools with significant acreage and physical plant costs require additional funding to adequately maintain and secure the school campus for the health and safety of students and staff; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2015, the Senate concurring, that the Legislature requests the Department of Education to consider including a base amount in the weighted student formula to cover physical plant operations, including maintenance and security needs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education consult with the Committee on Weights to consider school acreage as a factor in determining the base amount allocated for physical plant operations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of Education, Superintendent of Education, and Chairperson of the Committee on Weights.

OFFERED BY:

HCR HMS 2014-4232

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Untel-Hasken